AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for generating documents comprising:
performing with a computer system:
receiving input data that includes information useful for generating a document from a plurality of document components;
in response to receiving the input data, processing rules to determine which of one or more document components of the plurality of document components to include in a document, wherein the rules include component-to-component relationships and at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies under what circumstances to include a first document component in the document when a second document component is included in the document;
obtaining each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules;
generating said document to include each of the obtained document components; and
making said document available to a user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a configuration engine performs said generating said document.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of document components comprises a compensation document component.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said compensation document component defines a commission associated with the sale of a product.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said commission comprises monetary compensation to be distributed to a sales representative.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said compensation document component is modeled using a commission model.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of document components comprises a textual document component.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said textual document component comprises pre-defined textual elements.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said pre-defined textual elements are extensible.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said at least one textual document component is a contractual clause and the document is a contract.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said component-to-component relationship comprises a requires relation.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said component-to-component relationship comprises an optional relation.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for generating documents comprising:

performing with a computer system:

receiving selection inputs selecting a compensation component and a textual component;

in response to receiving the selection inputs, processing rules to determine which of one or more components of a plurality of components to include in a document in addition to the compensation component and the textual

component, wherein the rules include component-to-component relationships and at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies under what circumstances to include a first component in the document when a second component is included in the document;

obtaining the compensation component, the textual component, and each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules; and

generating said document to include each of the obtained components.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein a configuration engine performs said generating said document.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said compensation component comprises a commission associated with a sale of a product.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said commission comprises monetary compensation to be distributed to a sales representative.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said compensation component is modeled using a commission model.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said textual elements comprises pre-defined textual elements.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said textual elements of said document are associated with a product.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said document comprises a contract.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said textual component is defined by a first user.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of said plurality of components is defined as a member of a group consisting of a standard component, required component, or optional component.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an includes relation.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an excludes relation.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise a requires relation.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an optional relation.

29. (Previously Presented) A method for enabling a user to define configurable documents comprising:

performing using a computer system:

presenting a modeling interface to a user, wherein the modeling interface comprises a computer generated graphical user interface;

obtaining modeling information from said user via said modeling interface;

generating at least one compensation plan from said modeling information;

generating at least one compensation component by creating a relation between each of said at least one compensation plan and at least one product;

obtaining at least one textual element;

generating at least one textual component comprising said at least one textual element by creating a relation between each of said at least one textual component and said at least one product;

including respective rules associated with the compensation component and the textual component in a document template, wherein the rules are executable by a configuration engine, and the rules include component-to-component relationships and at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies under what circumstances to include a first component in the document template when a second component is included in the document template and controlling how a configuration engine processes the document template to configure a document with one or more of the components; and

associating said at least one compensation component and said at least one textual component with the document template.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

providing said document template to said configuration engine; and

processing said rules of said document template by said configuration engine to generate a document.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said processing comprises:

obtaining one or more of the rules associated with said at least one compensation component and said at least one textual component from said document template;

applying said one or more rules to generate a document; and

making said document available to a user.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein said one or more rules comprises an includes rule.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein said one or more rules comprises an excludes rule.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein said one or more rules comprises a requires rule.

35. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program code for generating documents embodied therein, said computer readable program code executable by a computer system to cause the computer system to:

access input data that includes information useful for generating a document from a plurality of document components;

in response to accessing the input data, process rules to determine which of one or more document components of the plurality of document components to include in a document, wherein the rules include component-to-component relationships and at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies under what circumstances to include a first document component in the document when a second document component is included in the document;

obtain each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules;

generate said document to include each of the obtained document components; and

make said document available to a user.

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein a configuration engine performs said generating said document.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein at least one of said plurality of document components comprises a compensation document component.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said compensation document component defines a commission associated with the sale of a product.

39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 38 wherein said commission comprises monetary compensation to be distributed to a sales representative.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 38 wherein said compensation document component is modeled using a commission model.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein at least one of said plurality of document components comprises a textual document component.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 41 wherein said textual document component comprises pre-defined textual elements.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 42 wherein said pre-defined textual elements are extensible.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 41 wherein said textual document component is a contractual clause and the document is a contract.

45. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein said document comprises a contract.

46. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein said document comprises any document associated with a business transaction.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein at least one of said plurality of document components is defined as a standard document component, required document component, or optional document component.

48. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein said interrelationship comprises an includes relation.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein said document component-to-document component relationships comprise an excludes relation.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein said document component-to-document component relationships comprise a requires relation.

51. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein said document component-to-document component relationships comprise an optional relation.

52. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium comprising computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code executable by a computer system to cause the computer system to:

access selection inputs selecting a compensation component and a textual component;

in response to accessing the selection inputs, process rules to determine which of one or more components of a plurality of components to include in a document in addition to the compensation component and the textual component, wherein the rules include component-to-component relationships and at least one of the component-to-component

relationships identifies under what circumstances to include a first component in the document when a second component is included in the document;

obtain the compensation component, the textual component, and each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules; and

generate said document to include each of the obtained components.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein a configuration engine performs said generating said document.

54. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said compensation component comprises a commission associated with a sale of a product.

55. (Original) The computer program product of claim 54 wherein said commission comprises monetary compensation to be distributed to a sales representative.

56. (Original) The computer program product of claim 54 wherein said compensation component is modeled using a commission model.

57. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said textual elements comprises pre-defined textual elements.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said textual elements of said document are associated with a product.

59. (Original) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said document comprises a contract.

60. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said textual component is defined by a first user.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said at least one compensation component or said textual component defined as a member of a group consisting of a standard component, required component, or optional component.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an includes relation.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an excludes relation.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise a requires relation.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an optional relation.

66. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium, said computer usable medium comprising computer readable program code executable by a computer system to cause the computer system to:

present a modeling interface to a user, wherein the modeling interface comprises a computer generated graphical user interface;

obtain modeling information from said user via said modeling interface;

generate at least one compensation plan from said modeling information;

generate at least one compensation component by creating a relation between each of said at least one compensation plan and at least one product;

obtain at least one textual element;

generate at least one textual component comprising said at least one textual element by creating a relation between each of said at least one textual component and said at least one product;

include at least one rule associated with the compensation component and at least one rule associated with the textual component in a document template, wherein the rules are executable by a configuration engine, and the rules include component-to-component relationships and at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies under what circumstances to include a first component in the document template when a second component is included in the document and to control how a configuration engine processes the document template to configure a document with one or more of the components; and

associate said at least one compensation component and said at least one textual component with a document template.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 66 further comprising code to:

provide said document template to said configuration engine; and

process said rules of said document template by said configuration engine to generate a document.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 67 wherein said processing comprises code to:

obtain one or more of the rules associated with said at least one compensation component and said at least one textual component from said document template;

apply said one or more rules to generate a document; and

make said document available to a user.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 68 wherein said one or more rules comprises an includes rule.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 68 wherein said one or more rules comprises an excludes rule.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 68 wherein said one or more rules comprises a requires rule.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 68 wherein said one or more rules comprises an optional rule.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said document comprises a contract.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of document components are defined as a standard component, required component, or optional component.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an includes relation.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said component-to-component relationships comprise an excludes relation.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving second input data that includes additional information useful for generating the document from the plurality of document components, wherein the second input data indicates selection of a third document component to be included in the document;

in response to receiving the second input data, processing the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more document components of the plurality of document components to also include in the document; and

obtaining the third document component and each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving additional inputs of data, wherein the additional inputs of data indicate selections of additional document components to be included in the document;

in response to receiving the additional inputs of data, processing the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more document components of the plurality of document components to also include in the document; and

obtaining the additional document components and each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'requires choice' component-to-component relationship the method further comprising:

in response to the processing of the rules, requesting a user to select one document component, from a group of document components identified by the requires choice component-to-component relationship to include in the document.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'includes' component-to-component relationship;

receiving input data further comprises receiving a selection of a third document component; and

obtaining each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules further comprises obtaining the third document component and a fourth document component identified in the includes component-to-component relationship.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'optional' component-to-component relationship, the method further comprising:

in response to the processing of the rules, providing a user an option to select one or more document components, from a group of document components identified by the optional component-to-component relationship; and

wherein obtaining each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules further comprises obtaining each document component selected by the user in response to providing the user the option to select the one or more document components.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'removes' component-to-component relationship and wherein receiving input data further comprises receiving a selection of a third document component, the method further comprising:

removing one or more document components from inclusion in the document.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the input data comprises selection of a particular contract type.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of document components and component-to-component relationships are included in a document template.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

receiving a second selection input, wherein the second selection input indicates selection of a third component to be included in the document;

in response to receiving the second selection input, processing the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more components of the plurality of components to also include in the document; and

obtaining the third component and each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

receiving additional selection inputs, wherein the additional selection inputs indicate selections of additional components to be included in the document;

in response to receiving the additional selection inputs, processing the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more components of the plurality of components to also include in the document; and

obtaining the additional components and each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'requires choice' component-to-component relationship, the method further comprising:

in response to the processing of the rules, requesting a user to select one component, from a group of components identified by the requires choice component-to-component relationship to include in the document.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein:

at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'includes' component-to-component relationship;

receiving a selection input further comprises receiving a selection of a third component; and

obtaining each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules further comprises obtaining the third component and a fourth component identified in the includes component-to-component relationship.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'optional' component-to-component relationship, the method further comprising:

in response to the processing of the rules, providing a user an option to select one or more components, from a group of components identified by the optional component-to-component relationship; and

wherein obtaining each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules further comprises obtaining each component selected by the user in response to providing the user the option to select the one or more components.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'removes' component-to-component relationship and wherein receiving a selection input further comprises receiving a selection of a third component, the method further comprising:

removing one or more components from inclusion in the document.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the selection input comprises selection of a particular contract type.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the plurality of components and component-to-component relationships are included in a document template.

93. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the code is further configured to:

access second input data that includes additional information useful for generating the document from the plurality of document components, wherein the second input data indicates selection of a third document component to be included in the document;

in response to accessing the second input data, process the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more document components of the plurality of document components to also include in the document; and

obtain the third document component and each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

94. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the code is further configured to:

access additional inputs of data, wherein the additional inputs of data indicate selections of additional document components to be included in the document;

in response to accessing the additional inputs of data, process the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more document components of the plurality of document components to also include in the document; and

obtain the additional document components and each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

95. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'requires choice' component-to-component relationship, the code is further configured to:

in response to the processing of the rules, request a user to select one document component, from a group of document components identified by the requires choice component-to-component relationship to include in the document.

96. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein:

at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'includes' component-to-component relationship;

the code configured to access input data further comprises accessing a selection of a third document component; and

the code configured to obtain each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules further comprises obtaining the third document component and a fourth document component identified in the includes component-to-component relationship.

97. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'optional' component-to-component relationship, the code is further configured to:

in response to the processing of the rules, provide a user an option to select one or more document components, from a group of document components identified by the optional component-to-component relationship; and

wherein the code configured to obtain each of the plurality of document components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules further comprises obtaining each document component selected by the user in response to providing the user the option to select the one or more document components.

98. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'removes' component-to-component relationship and wherein the code configured to access input data further comprises accessing a selection of a third document component, the code is further configured to:

remove one or more document components from inclusion in the document.

99. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the input data comprises selection of a particular contract type.

100. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the plurality of document components and component-to-component relationships are included in a document template.

101. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein the code is further configured to:

access a second selection input, wherein the second selection input indicates selection of a third component to be included in the document;

in response to accessing the second selection input, process the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more components of the plurality of components to also include in the document; and

obtain the third component and each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

102. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein the code is further configured to:

access additional selection inputs, wherein the additional selection inputs indicate selections of additional components to be included in the document;

in response to accessing the additional selection inputs, process the rules to determine which, if any, of one or more components of the plurality of components to also include in the document; and

obtain the additional components and each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules.

103. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'requires choice' component-to-component relationship, the code is further configured to:

in response to the processing of the rules, request a user to select one component, from a group of components identified by the requires choice component-to-component relationship to include in the document.

104. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein:

at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'includes' component-to-component relationship;

the code configured to access a selection input is further configured to access a selection of a third component; and

the code configured to obtain each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules is further configured to obtain the third component and a fourth component identified in the includes component-to-component relationship.

105. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies an 'optional' component-to-component relationship, the code is further configured to:

in response to the processing of the rules, provide a user an option to select one or more components, from a group of components identified by the optional component-to-component relationship; and

wherein the code configured to obtain each of the plurality of components to be included in the document as determined by the processing of the rules is further configured to obtain each component selected by the user in response to providing the user the option to select the one or more components.

106. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein at least one of the component-to-component relationships identifies a 'removes' component-to-component relationship and wherein the code configured to access a selection input further comprises accessing a selection of a third component, the code is further configured to:

remove one or more components from inclusion in the document.

107. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein the selection input comprises selection of a particular contract type.

108. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein the plurality of components and component-to-component relationships are included in a document template.